

ZECHARIAH - Jehovah Remembers

"There is HOPE"

Zechariah 5:5-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. REVIEW: Zechariah gives us 8 Apocalyptic Night Visions in the 1st 6 chapters of the Book.

a) Vision #1 - "The Man in the Midst of the Myrtles.

1) Zechariah 1:7-17

b) Vision #2 - "The Four Horns and the Four Artisans"

1) Zechariah 1:18-21

c) Vision #3 - "The Man with the Measuring Line"

1) Zechariah 2:1-13

d) Vision #4 - "The Gospel according to Zechariah"

1) Zechariah 3:1-10

e) Visions #5 - "The Unlimited Supply of the Holy Spirit"

1) Zechariah 4:1-14

f) Vision #6 - "God's Unchanging Law"

1) Zechariah 5:1-4

2. This Morning - Vision #7 - "A Message of Hope"

a) **Zechariah 5:5-11**

3. This world is a mess and so is **AMERICA**.

4. **MY QUESTION IS:** *"Lord, how long will you let this go on?"*

a) AND here we are fighting our own personal battles with the WORLD, the FLESH, and the DEVIL!!!

1) **The World** - represents the corrupt societal systems.

2) **The Flesh** - our fallen human nature and desires.

3) **The Devil** - is Satan, the spiritual adversary.

5. **WOW!!!** IN THIS MESSAGE TODAY GOD WANTS US TO KNOW THAT SIN WILL ONE DAY BE DEFEATED!!!

6. **RIGHT NOW:** We can find ourselves reeling from hardship and pain.

a) AND the reality that **LIFE JUST ISN'T FAIR!!!**

1) BUT one day **Revelation 21:4**

I. A MESSAGE OF HOPE

A. HOPE BEGINS WITH AWARENESS

1. Vs 5

a) Question: *What do you see?*

2. Vs 6

a) Answer: Zechariah sees a basket of wickedness being sent out from the land.

3. Wickedness has to do with wrongdoing, SIN and guilt.

a) *Proverbs 11:5*

4. **Very Important:** If God's people wanted God to be with them, then they had to be ready for God to deal with the sin within them.

B. GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN

1. If we're not careful, we will be tempted to think, "*God has forgotten.*" Or "*Perhaps God doesn't care about the wickedness in this life.*"

2. **FACT:** One day sin will be defeated once and for all.

a) In the meantime Satan will use everything in his arsenal to defeat us.

3. **In every war, there are battles.**

a) **In every battle, there are attacks.**

b) **As Christians, we experience these attacks in varying degrees.**

1) Some attacks seem like **skirmishes**, some like **never ending battles** and some battles seem like **all-out war**.

c) **Behind every war and every battle and every attack lies a strategist, the mastermind** of the ultimate plan of attack.

1) In our case, this strategist is Satan.

4. Here's what we need to know!!!! **No amount of wickedness** will ever be able to **DEFEAT OUR GOD**.

5. Today's message will put evil/wickedness into its proper perspective for us.

II. THE REALITY OF WICKEDNESS

1. Vs 5

2. Vs 6

a) *"This is the basket that is going out"*

1) *"basket"* - ephah - a bushel basket

b) *"This is their iniquity in the land"*

1) *"iniquity"* - wickedness or evil

2) *"their sin"* - Israel's sin.

3. So, the wickedness in the basket reflects the people of the land.

a) God was showing Zechariah that He was taking all their sins out of the land.

4. **WOW!!!** This is a message of GRACE.

5. **PRAISE GOD** that he has made a way for our sin to be done away with.

a) **Zechariah 5:1-4**

III. A BUSHEL OF INIQUITY

A. THE MEASURE OF WICKEDNESS

1. So, in verses 1-4 God gives us specific dimensions of the Scroll.

2. **NOW** God gives us the measurement of the Ephah.

3. Vs7

a) *"And behold, the leaden cover was lifted..."*

1) The lead cover was somewhere between 75 and 125lbs.

b) *"and there was a woman sitting in the basket."*

1) This woman *had to be skinny* to fit into a 5+ gallon bucket.

4. WICKEDNESS is not portrayed as a **GIANT**, but a **Scrawny Woman**.

a) Vs 6

B. THE POWER OF OUR GOD

1. Vs 7

2. Vs 8

a) This is a picture of the impossibility of sin escaping.

3. **THERE ARE TIMES**, and there are people who feel like sin in our life is so large and so powerful that we have no hope of it ever going away!!!

a) *2 Corinthians 10:4*

4. OUR GREATEST ENEMY

a) *Ephesians 2:1-3*

b) *Jeremiah 17:9*

C. SENDING BABYLON BACK

1. Vs 9

a) *"and behold, two women coming forward"*

b) *"They had wings like the wings of a stork"*

1) In the Old Testament, the stork is mentioned as an "unclean" bird.

c) *Jeremiah 8:7*

2. These two unclean women were taking wickedness back to the land of Shinar.

a) Shinar is in Babylon, where the Jews dwelt during their captivity.

3. **WOW!!!** God wasn't just taking his people out of Babylon;

a) He was taking Babylon out of His people.

4. **That's Sanctification.**

a) Justification - Sanctification - Glorification

5. **SANCTIFICATION** - is the divine work of God rooting sin out of our lives.

6. Vs 10-11

THREE POWERFUL TRUTHS TO PONDER

1. ALL OF OUR SINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

a) *Psalms 103:12*

2. GOD IS STILL ON HIS THRONE

a) *1 John 1:9*

b) *Psalms 103:19*

3. ONE DAY SIN WILL BE REMOVED FOREVER

a) *Revelation 21:4*